

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the following remarks.

1. The §132 and §112, ¶1 Rejections

The examiner rejected the added claims under both §132 (new matter) and §112, ¶1 (lack of enablement). In each case the examiner asked to specify the portions of the specification which provides support for the added claims. The following table provides information responsive to the examiner's request. The information in the table is not intended to provide an exhaustive identification of all the passages in the specification that support the claims. Based on the information in the table, the rejections under §132 and §112, ¶1 should be withdrawn.

Claim	Support
24. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein the a biodegradable polymer is a poly(lactide).	Original claim 1.
25. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein the at least one layer is a foamed layer.	Page 3, lines 31-32.
26. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein the thermoplastic polymeric material is the biodegradable polymer, and wherein the biodegradable polymeric material is a poly(lactide).	Original claim 1.
27. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein the thermoplastic polymeric material is the polyvinyl chloride.	Original claim 1.
28. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein the thermoplastic polymeric material is the polyolefin interpolymer.	Original claim 1.
29. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein the substantially solid fibril-like fringes have a density of at least 1000 per square centimeter.	Page 3, lines 23-24.
30. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet,	Original claim 1; page 6, lines 14-21.

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or coating according to claim 1 wherein the thermoplastic polyolefin material is the thermoplastic polyolefin interpolymers, and wherein the thermoplastic polyolefin interpolymers is an ethylene/styrene interpolymers.	
31. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein the thermoplastic polyolefin material is the thermoplastic polyolefin interpolymers, and wherein the thermoplastic polyolefin interpolymers includes the polymer units derived from one or more ethylenically unsaturated polymerizable monomer(s) other than those derived from i) and ii),	Original claim 1.
32. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein the thermoplastic polyolefin material is the thermoplastic polyolefin interpolymers, and wherein the polymer units derived from at least one of ethylene and/or an alpha-olefin monomer is derived from ethylene.	Original claim 1; page 6.
33. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein the thermoplastic polyolefin material is the thermoplastic polyolefin interpolymers, and wherein the interpolymers is an interpolymers of ethylene and styrene or of ethylene, styrene, and at least one alpha-olefin containing 3 to 8 carbon atoms.	Original claim 1; page 6.
34. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein the thermoplastic polyolefin material is the thermoplastic polyolefin interpolymers, and wherein the interpolymers has a density of at least 0.930 g/cm ³ .	Page 28, lines 3-4.
35. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 further comprising a plasticizer, and wherein the a biodegradable polymer is a poly(lactide).	Original claim 1; page 29, line 28.
36. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein the thermoplastic polyolefin material is the thermoplastic polyolefin interpolymers and wherein the thermoplastic polyolefin interpolymers includes crosslinking.	Page 3, lines 27-28.
37. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein the substantially solid fibril-like fringes have a	Page 38, lines 16-18.

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density of at least 2000 per square centimeter.	
38. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein the substantially solid fibril-like fringes have a density of at least 4000 per square centimeter.	Page 38, lines 16-18.
39. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein the substantially solid fibril-like fringes have a density of from about 4000 to about 15000 per square centimeter.	Page 38, lines 16-18.
40. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein the fringes have a minimum height of at least about 40 micrometers.	Page 38, lines 22-27.
41. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein the fringes have a minimum height of at least about 80 micrometers.	Page 38, lines 22-27.
42. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein the fringes have a minimum height of at least about 120 micrometers.	Page 38, lines 22-27.
43. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein the fringes have height of less than 600 micrometers.	Page 38, lines 22-27.
44. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein the fringes have height of about 200 to about 400 micrometers.	Page 38, lines 22-27.
45. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 which is a film.	Original claim 1.
46. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 which is a sheet.	Original claim 1.
47. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 which is a coating.	Original claim 1.
48. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein at least one layer has been orientated.	Original claim 5.
49. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 in which the layer has been cured, irradiated, or crosslinked.	Page 3, lines 27-28.
50. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein at least one layer is elastic.	Original claim 4.
51. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 which has been	Original claim 7.

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subjected to corona treatment.	
52. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein the surface microstructure is on two sides.	Page 3, lines 28-30.
53. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein the surface microstructure covers a part of the surface of the layer.	Page 3, lines 24-25.
54. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 wherein the surface microstructure covers all of the surface of the layer.	Page 3, lines 24-25.
55. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 in the form of a mono-layer.	Original claim 1.
56. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 in the form of a multi-layer.	Original claim 1.
57. The mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating according to claim 1 in the form of a three-layer film.	Page 57, example 1.

2. The §112, ¶2 Rejection

Claims 1 and 24-57 were rejected under §112, ¶2. The examiner objected to the terms "substantially solid" and "fibril like" as vague and indefinite.

With respect to the term "fibril-like," this phrase has been deleted from claim 1, which is believed to overcome this ground of rejection.

On the other hand, "substantially solid" remains in the claim. This phrase is fully supported in the specification at page 38, lines 5-8. This passage states that

The fringes are substantially solid aberrations, e.g., as opposed to hollow or partially hollow protrusions. This means that the fringes are compact structures substantially entirely filled with and consisting of the thermoplastic material forming the fringed layer, possibly slightly grooved at the top.

In light of the specification, the phrase "substantially solid" is neither vague nor indefinite. Accordingly, the rejection under §112, ¶2 should be withdrawn.

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3. The §103 rejection based on STREET in view of GRUBER ET AL.

Claims 1, 24-35, 37-48, and 50-57 were rejected under §103 based on STREET (US 3,696,183) in view of GRUBER ET AL. (US 5,484,881). The examiner basically asserted that it would be obvious to use the poly(lactide) of GRUBER ET AL. in the process of STREET to form a fibril-bearing film. Applicant disagrees.

In the first instance, STREET neither teaches nor suggests a mono-layer or multi-layer film, sheet, or coating wherein at least one layer displays a surface microstructure wherein the fringes are substantially solid and wherein the layer comprises a thermoplastic polymeric material wherein the thermoplastic polymeric material is a biodegradable polymer, a polyvinyl chloride, or a polyolefin interpolymers.

Secondly, there is no teaching or suggestion to support the combination of GRUBER ET AL. with STREET. In this regard, the examiner's attention is drawn to column 6, lines 8-12 in GRUBER ET AL. wherein it is stated

Another advantage of the present invention is the high surface energy of poly(lactide) films. Poly(lactide) is a material with a relatively high surface energy, when compared to other films. As the surface energy of an extruded film increases, the driving force to remain intact and to minimize surface area increases, therefore the tendency to form a smooth, coherent, high gloss film increases.

(Emphasis added.) Thus not only does GRUBER ET AL. fail to mention that the poly(lactide) can be used to make a fringed microstructure layer, but GRUBER ET AL. specifically state that the poly(lactide) disclosed therein has the property of minimizing surface area increases. This is the opposite of the qualities desired in making a fringed film, which necessarily creates greater surface area of the layer.

Accordingly, GRUBER ET AL. teaches away from use of the poly(lactide) disclosed therein in applications such as disclosed in STREET. GRUBER ET AL. certainly fail to provide motivation to one of skill in the art to use the poly(lactide) in the process of STREET. For these reasons, there is not teaching or suggestion to support the

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combination of GRUBER ET AL. with STREET. Accordingly, the rejection under §103 based on STREET and GRUBER ET AL. should be withdrawn.

4. The §103 rejection based on STREET in view of GRUBER ET AL. and further in view of HEMMING

The examiner rejected claims 36 and 49 under §103 based on STREET in view of GRUBER ET AL. and further in view of HEMMING.

However, as discussed above under heading 3, the underlying rejection based on STREET and GRUBER ET AL. is incorrect and should be withdrawn. HEMMING does not fill the deficiencies of STREET and GRUBER ET AL. Accordingly, the rejection including HEMMING as a tertiary reference should also be withdrawn.

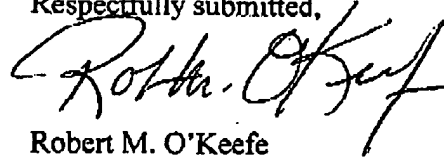
CONCLUSION

The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt Notice of Allowance are courteously solicited.

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No fee is believed to be due; however, should any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, or should an overpayment be included herein, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct or credit said fees from or to Deposit Account No. 10-1205/ADVA:011.

Respectfully submitted,



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